

5. He casts (afar his flames) as an archer (his arrows), and sharpens when about to dart his radiance, as (a warrior whets) the edge of his iron (weapons),¹ he who, variously moving, passes through the night, like the light-falling foot; of a bird perched upon a tree.

6. Like the adorable sun, he clothes himself with brilliant (rays): diffusing friendly light, he crackles with (his flame): (he it is) who is luminous by night, and who lights men (to their work) by day; who **is** immortal and radiant; who lights men by day,

7. Of whom a sound is heard when scattering his rays like (that) of the sun: the brilliant showerer (of benefits) clamours among the (burning) plants: he who, moving not with a shifting, variable motion, but, humbling (our foes), fills the well-wedded earth and heaven with wealth.²

8. He who (goes) with sacred (rays), as if with self-harnessed, well-governed (steeds), who shines like lightning with his own scorching (flames), who im-

melter causes to melt, lie burns the timber; or, as *Ba.ya.na* explains it, *yathd swarndkdrah swarnddikam drdvayati tathdgnir vanam Wiasmasdt karoti*, as a goldsmith fuses gold and the rest, *BO Afjni* reduces the wood to ashes: perhaps something more than simple fusion of metals is implied: the alchemical calcining or permutation of them would be more analogous to the burning of timber, or its reduction to ashes.

¹ *Ayaso na dhdrdm*: *ayas* has here the force of the Latin *ferrum*.

² *A rodasi vasund supatni, solhanapatihe dydvd pritkhyau dhanena purayati* is the amplification of the comment, he fills

with wealth heaven and earth, both having a
brilliant husband
or lord: who that is, is not specified, unless it be
Agni or *Indra*.